

COMMAND PHILOSOPHY

NAVAL RESERVE READINESS COMMAND NORTHWEST

YOU ARE THE NAVY


VADM Cotton, often asks us the question, “Are you in the Naval Reserve or in the Navy?” This question is particularly relevant in Region Northwest. You are often the only representatives of the Navy in your city or even your state. It is essential that your fellow citizens see a model worthy of emulation. Your professional performance, appearance, and personal behavior must conform to the highest standards. Be involved in your community, and make your “shipmates” and neighbors proud that you are Sailors.

Priorities- Because we are the Navy, the Navy’s priorities: Manpower, Current Readiness, Future Readiness, Quality of Service, and Alignment are our priorities. Don’t just memorize these priorities in order to parrot them back. Learn how they apply to you and your command.

Change- More than 24 years ago, when I entered the Navy, I would have scoffed at the idea that there would be no Radioman or Signalmen rates, but things change. Change is inevitable and makes all of us a little uncomfortable. We are entering a time of significant change within the Navy, and we are all being routinely challenged with the idea that forthcoming changes will directly affect us as individuals. I ask all of you, as I must, to look beyond our own agendas, and embrace change that is good for our service and our country. Be flexible, be enthusiastic, and most importantly, be ready.

Mentoring- The concept is not new, as there have probably been “Sea Daddies” for as long as there have been Sailors. We are making great strides in formalizing this process. Additionally, I ask all Sailors in a leadership position to look around you and find someone who needs a “nudge” in the right direction. Know your shipmates and take an active interest in their careers and professional development. Make an effort to find someone to train as your relief. For my junior Sailors, if someone around you seems to be struggling with a task or concept you have mastered, help bring them along. Your efforts will help improve our quality of service and strengthen our Navy and our Nation.

Finally, let me discuss my specific expectations for my staff both here at NRRC Northwest and out at the centers. A synopsis of our mission is “Support to the Fleet.” We do this in many ways, the most important of which is to prepare and provide qualified personnel to their supported commands. We are Full-Time Support personnel, and this is our full-time job. Learn it, and execute it! If we are unable or unwilling to accomplish this task, we are administrative overhead and should go away. For the Selected Reservists drilling in NRRC Northwest, you and your supported commands are the final judges on how well we are executing our mission. I invite feedback, both positive and negative to assist us in accomplishing this. I look forward to working with all the Sailors of NRRC Northwest to forge one successful element of the world’s most powerful Navy.


T. H. BLAKENEY, JR.
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commander